366 they were off soon after they were lit. Sometimes there was a partial contract by which the kerosene oil lights were provided by Panchayats while the petromax lights were provided by the contractor or vice versa, and the same evils were revealed to be pregnant in this practice too.

217 **Provision of Libraries and Newspapers**: Libraries and reading rooms were provided by Panchayats in a large number of places. Though most of the 1st grade Panchayats had no such provision except in Tuni, 2nd and 3rd grade Panchayats showed greater interest in the matter. The inquiry showed that almost all the 2nd and 3rd grade Panchayats and a large number of minor Panchayats too were providing this facility to the public. The charges varied from Re. 0–4–0 to Re. 1 depending on the number of books and periodicals in the library.

Very few Panchayats like Amalapuram had big libraries with a separate manager-clerk and office-boys while the libraries in other Panchayats were managed either by a separate clerk or by the executive of the Panchayat itself. In a few places, individual subscriptions were also collected at the rate of as. 4 and as. 8 according to the nature of facilities given to the subscribers.

The library grants by the Government were few and far between and most of the libraries were not receiving them.

543 **Management of Fairs and Festivals**: Management of fairs and festivals and provision of amenities for the pilgrims — erecting of barracks, stalls, urinals and sheds and other public health amenities—belonged to the domain of Panchayats whenever important celebrations were held within their confines. The money that was to be spent on conveniences was either collected by way of subscriptions or obtained as a grant from the Government or spent from the funds of the Panchayat.

Hardly any of the 1st grade Panchayats had this obligation, while a few in the 2nd and 3rd grades and some of the minor Panchayats seemed to be undertaking this work. Ramchandrapuram, and Tanuku in East Godavari and Bhimavaram in the West Godavari discharged this obligation. In Anantapur, Kadiri Panchayat had to manage every year the Car-festival of Narsinhaswamy. An illustration of a typical expenditure as in Kadiri would indicate the nature of expenditure incurred by Panchayats on such occasions :

543

**Table of Expenditure in Kadiri on Car Festival.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Removal of rank vegetation in the tank ... | Rs. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Cost of 15 buckets and 20 ropes ... | „ | 65 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Cost of water pendals ... | „ | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Cost of pots and tumblers ... | „ | 62 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Cost of public latrines ... | „ | 260 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Isolation shed ... | „ | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Street watering by coolies for 6 days ... | „ | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Temporary menials for 14 days ... | „ | 72 | 0 | 0 |
| | „ „ 8 for 5 days ... | „ | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| | „ „ 6 „ 14 days ... | „ | 106 | 0 | 0 |
| | „ „ 8 „ 5 days ... | „ | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Sanitary peons 2 for 15 days ... | „ | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Drain cleaners 2 for 5 days ... | „ | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Sanitary peons 2 for 5 days ... | „ | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Disinfection coolies 2 for 10 days ... | „ | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Baskets ... | „ | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Sand ... | „ | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Entrance, Lights, etc. ... | „ | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Miscellaneous ... | „ | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| | | Rs. | 1062 | 0 | 0 |

In West Godavari, Velpur, Attili and Achanta Panchayats; in Kistna, Vuyyuru; in Vizagapatam Madugula and Bobbili; in Anantapur, Gooty, Madakasira, Bukkapatnam and Pamidi; and in Kurnool, along with Chembur, Gudur, Koilkuntla, Kadumunur, Markapur, Maddikera and Nandikotkur were some of the major Panchayats which were managing fairs and festivals in their areas.

623

**Optional Duties of the Panchayats:** Plantation of trees, maintenance of cart and bus stands, providing radio, help in epidemics, provision of dispensaries, collecting donations and catering to welfare activities were among the optional duties of Panchayats in Madras.

367

**Plantation of Trees:** While most of the major Panchayats in every district were paying some attention to this function, the 3rd grade and minor Panchayats needed greater stimulus. While Razole Panchayat in East Godavari had not done anything, Velpur, Achanta, Ganapavaram, and Tadepalligudam in West Godavari; Parvatipuram, Bobbili and Kasimkot in Vizagapatam, and Maddikera in Kurnool were the solitary instances of the 3rd grade Panchayats which had undertaken this function.

auctioned, while Government wanted them to be departmentally managed. 231

Parks for the public recreation were constructed only in a few Panchayats while the majority were indifferent. 367

Similarly market sites where fees were collected on sale of vegetables, grains or animals were mostly without stalls or sheds to shelter the sellers and buyers and the goods offered for sale. 443

Burning and burial grounds were not properly maintained either in the major or minor Panchayats. 764

Street lighting undertaken only by a few major Panchayats was left mostly to contractors who would light the streets hardly for a few hours. Panchayats did not undertake this task directly as they thought it was difficult to control and check the pilfering of kerosene oil, lights, wicks, burners, chimneys, etc. The remedy for that would be to get standardised and stamped goods for the use of Panchayats from Government Stores and to punish offenders mercilessly than to leave this function to the mercy of the contractors who would only be keen to charge the highest rates than giving proper service. 365

Provision of libraries and newspapers was undertaken only by very few Panchayats either due to lack of funds or sufficient interest. 217

Management of fairs and festivals was done by a few minor or major Panchayats, but, without exploiting their privileged position by means of a pilgrim tax or a tax on the vendors. 543

Optional functions like plantation of trees, provision of cart and bus stands, radio sets for listeners, help in epidemics, provision of dispensaries, etc. were done only by very few Panchayats. 623

The attendance of the members at the meetings of Panchayats was so irregular that there was often no quorum. Sometimes the Panchayats held no meetings at all for a long time or the members absented themslves continuously without any action being taken against them.

Panchayats were superseded and special officers were appointed to administer them for a year or two, when Panchayats could not work properly either due to local factions or opposition to taxation or any other undesirable features. Fresh Panchayat was ushered in only after the prevailing irregularities were removed and when the prospects of its smooth working were tolerably certain. 687 623

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AW1 India
Telugu AW17



implements are bought chiefly in Chintamani, about 18 miles off, and also at Srinivasapur, about 14 miles off. 438

Articles of consumption are bought at the weekly fair held here on Tuesdays, also in Chintamani, Kothakota and some other places.

*Sale of village produce.*—The quantities produced here are: paddy 500 puttis,* ragi 200, † sugarcane to the value of about Rs. 1,500, other millets and pulses to the value of about Rs. 1,000. 433 [804]

Out of this whatever is required for household purposes is retained. The rest, more than 50 per cent, is sold away. The nearest market is Chintamani. Sometimes the grain is transported to Bangalore also.

There are about three local roads, one from Gownipalle to Addegal, a village 4 miles off, one from the village to Manchinillakota, a village 6 miles off, and the other up to Todigol, 6 miles off. Another short road running for three miles runs up to the Mysore frontier. On the other side is British territory and there is no road further up. The local road to Tadigol connects with the Bangalore-Cuddapah road. The nearest commercial centres are Chintamani and Bangalore, accessible by the said road. The nearest railway station is Srinivasapur, about 14 miles off, reached by road. 491 361 [498]

The fair that takes place here every week is a big affair. People from very different parts come here. The fair is nominally held on Tuesday, but it generally extends from Monday to Wednesday. The chief business is carried on in stock, especially sheep and goats. Business in these is carried on to the extent of Rs. 4,000. They are chiefly sent to the Kolar Goldfields for slaughter and consumption. 543 438

*Economic condition of village.*—The customary rates of wages, in money, are from 2 to 3 annas per day, for a man; and 1½ annas for a woman; in kind, 2 seers of ragi, or 3 seers of paddy to a man, 1½ seers of ragi or 2 seers of paddy to a woman. 465

The current prices of staple foods are— 435

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rice | ... | ... | 8 Mysore seers for a rupee. |
| Ragi | ... | ... | 28 " " |
| Sazzulu | ... | ... | 20 " " |
| Cholam | ... | ... | 14 " " |
| Tamarind | ... | ... | Re. 1 for a maund. |
| Jaggery | ... | ... | Rs. 2 " |
| Chillis | ... | ... | Rs. 4-8-0 " |
| Dhôll | ... | ... | 8 seers for a rupee. |

About four or five families have made savings to the extent of Rs. 5,000, but on the other hand others have contracted debts to the extent of Rs. 10,000. Owing to scarcity of rains and failure of crops the people have been obliged to borrow heavily to meet current and occasional expenses. 454 426

There are practically no families who have liberated themselves from debt. While paying off old scores they borrow in new places.

There is a co-operative credit society. The capital is subscribed in shares of Rs. 10 each payable in twenty monthly instalments. 453

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* [Weight about 89 tons, value about Rs. 10,000.—Ed.]
† [Weight about 48 tons, value about Rs. 4,000.—Ed.]

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AWI India
Telugu AWI7



426 The result is that many families that were once rich are now reduced to absolute poverty. The rich few are becoming richer. But 65 to 75 per cent of the population are in debt. Of these 25 to 30 per cent have hopes of clearing it off in three or four years by mortgaging their lands. The rest, 35 to 40 per cent, are not able to escape easily out of debt. The pity is that these classes do not hesitate to contract debts at first, and then they are not in a hurry to return them soon, and small sums accumulate into large amounts.

434 *Trade.*—The villagers purchase commodities for industrial and
●[543] agricultural purposes from weekly fairs held at Nidadavolu and
433 from Rajahmundry; for consumption, partly from weekly fairs at Nidadavolu and partly from the local traders. The amount of village produce sold was approximately as follows:—

| | 1916-17. | 1915-16. |
|---|---|---|
| Soap nuts ... ... ... ... | 250 bags. | 500 bags. |
| Horsegram ... ... ... ... | 200 (or 250) bags. | 400 „ |
| Gingelly ... ... ... ... | 220 bags. | 850 „ |
| Red gram (this is mostly retained for local use). | 50–60 „ | 100 „ |
| Bengal gram ... ... ... | 25–30 „ | 100 „ |
| Ghee ... ... ... ... ... | 50 60 tins. | 50–60 tins. |
| Cholam (this is retained for local use; no crop this year). | ... | 50 bags. |
| Black gram ... ... ... ... | 20 bags. | 12 „ |

249 *Jaggery trade.*—The most noteworthy feature of the village is
438 the jaggery trade, carried on during the summer season. Nearly half the field area of the village consists of dry sand, filled with palmyra trees. These trees are rented out to the toddy tappers, who have to pay from Rs. 15 to 20 each in rent. One man can draw toddy from about 60 trees. Some 1,000 to 1,200 of these tappers come from the different taluks of the Kistna and Godavari districts to this village in summer; while 200 to 225 go from the village itself. These people settle in the fields in the three summer months during which the fields lie waste, and draw toddy from 5 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. They have to climb the tree and suspend pots, lined with lime, beneath the cut ends of the stalks of the fronds of the palm from which the juice (toddy) flows. But for the lime the toddy would immediately begin to ferment. The women at home boil the toddy till it is condensed into jaggery.

Part of the jaggery is sold to the direct agents of Messrs. Parry & Co., who have opened an extensive business in these parts and invested a large capital. These agents of the company purchase jaggery with the company's money and get a commission at the rate of As. 2-6 per bag. They send it to Samalkot, where the company converts it into sugar.

The remainder is sold by the tappers to private capitalists and retail traders, who purchase the jaggery in the fields and sell it again to the company's agent in the village. They receive no commission, but make a profit in three ways: (1) There is a difference in the cost per candy between the prices in the fields (i.e., near the tappers' huts) and in the village. (2) The traders lend money to the tappers in times of need and get "Jattis" executed, promises by which the tappers agree to repay the money in the shape of jaggery